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the space of the last six years three-fifths of the United States embraced the scheme. It took the public school system ages to develop—by comparison.

Since I have been in England scores of audiences have thrilled and risen to their feet and applauded when I told my experiences in the workings of mothers' pensions. And I knew that though I stood there before them I was practically forgotten. Their tribute was not to any lecturer, but to motherhood. I had touched the deepest chord in their beings.

You have but to point out to people the facts—of which most of them are ignorant—the facts of how the State in the past has been breaking up families for the crime of poverty, and then the possibility of preserving the family by a just, sane, efficient and economical system of mothers' pensions, and you get instant and overwhelming appreciation.

Mothers' pensions are coming throughout the world, not because any one or two men go about preaching the merits of it, but because, once the idea is liberated, it grows and spreads of itself and soon has won over the whole community by the simple sanity and humanity of its fundamental principles.—Judge Henry Neal in *Juvenile Court Record*, Chicago, October, 1917.

**Selection of Judges by the Bar.**—"The question of the extent to which the nomination of candidates for judicial office should be controlled by the bar continues to be much agitated. In contrast to the views of Mr. Shelton heretofore commented on (*Law Notes*, July, 1917, p. 63), attention may be called to a recent open letter of Mr. Justice Hamer of the Nebraska Supreme Court, who said in part:

"Everyone knows that while the judges of the Supreme Court are honest and intend to do right, and that as a whole the result reached is generally the proper result, yet every lawyer of wide experience knows that on nearly every supreme bench there is, or may be, or has been, some judge with peculiar predilections, or unexplainable prejudices. Maybe he is nearly always in favor of breaking the will that is contested, maybe he is nearly always for the city or town that is sued, maybe he is nearly always against the railroad company in a personal injury case, and also against the packing house and against the contractor and builder and the manufacturing plant in all such cases, maybe he is nearly always in favor of the defendant in a criminal case, maybe he is nearly always for the insurance company when it is sued, or for the church or the lodge that is sued, and maybe he is for the big bank as against the little one, and maybe he is for any bank as against its customer.

"These are only illustrations. Whatever the peculiarity of this particular judge may be, the men who obtain his nomination and election have probably secured a bonanza in their business, if his peculiar leaning is in their direction. Therefore, when the lawyers recommend anyone, it is a pertinent question as to what particular line of the law business they are in. They are likely to know the predilections of many judges or their prejudices or tendencies, and they may succeed in making money out of the peculiar habit of thought of the judges instead of out of the merits of the cases tried. Even one judge on the court having strong prejudices in any direction is dangerous to the safe and orderly administration of justice. Most lawyers of money-making tendencies are likely to lean strongly in favor of the judge whose peculiar views enables them to make money.

"To this it may be answered that for every lawyer who favors a candidate because of his known predilections there will be another who opposes him for

the same reason. The adherence of a representative majority of the bar can never be obtained on any such narrow grounds. Over and above the entire argument pro and con stands out the salient fact that if the selection of the heads of any other purely technical service, college professors for instance, was made in a manner comparable to the popular choice of judicial candidates ruinous consequences would speedily be apparent."—From *Law Notes*, March, 1918.

**Causes of Increasing Juvenile Delinquency.**—Mr. Cecil Leeson, an English expert on social welfare work, is reported as having said recently, referring to conditions in Great Britain:

"The reasons for the general increase are that there has been an abnormal demand for boy labor; abnormally high wages have been paid small boys suddenly released from school discipline to go to work; the police force has been diminished; street lighting has been restricted; enforcement of the school attendance laws has been relaxed; thousands of children have been turned out of school by the use of school buildings for military purposes; and home discipline has been slackened, while at the same time club, settlement and church work, evening classes, and all general welfare work have been interrupted, with the natural result that children have been running wild."

Following this diagnosis of the cause of augmented delinquency Mr. Leeson said:

"These are some of the things we must avoid here in the United States. England has found her promiscuous breaking down of labor laws at the start of war did not pay. Her child workers are reported as 'drawing on their strength,' and the government reports that 'munition workers in general have been allowed to reach a state of reduced efficiency and lowered health, which might have been avoided without reduction of output by attention to the details of daily and weekly rest.' We must profit by the experience of other belligerent countries. We must not allow our school system or our child-protective laws to be broken down. We must continue to the very last moment our clubs, settlements and other welfare organizations so that the little children of America, our future citizens, whose lives we should conserve now more than ever, may be the last to feel the stress of war."

The matter is one worthy of close consideration by the legal profession, whose members are leaders not only in the legislative halls but in the affairs of the average community.

#### **Report of the Agent for Aiding Discharged Prisoners in Massachusetts.—**

*To the Director of Prisons:*

The number of released male prisoners aided from Dec. 1, 1916, to Nov. 30, 1917, was 2,054.

Two hundred twenty-three men who had been inmates of the State Prison were assisted as follows:

Railroad fares to homes or places of employment.....	\$ 184.63
Board and lodgings.....	1,804.50
Clothing .....	457.67
Tools .....	103.80
Miscellaneous .....	7.50
Total .....	<u>\$2,558.10</u>